AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 5, 7 and 8; cancel claims 2, 6, 9 and 10; and add claims 11-14 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of transdifferentiating a monocytic cell into an endothelial cell, comprising:

providing a monocytic cell; and

artificially increasing the expression of pleiotrophin (PTN) in the monocytic cell by transducing the monocytic cell *in vitro* with a retrovirus expressing PTN such that the monocytic cell transdifferentiates into an endothelial cell.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the retrovirus is a bicistronic retrovirus.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the monocytic cell is a RAW cell or a THP-1 cell.

5. (Currently Amended) An isolated endothelial cell, produced by the method, comprising:

providing a monocytic cell; and

artificially increasing the expression of pleiotrophin (PTN) in the monocytic cell by transducing the monocytic cell *in vitro* with a retrovirus expressing PTN such that the monocytic cell transdifferentiates into an endothelial cell.

Claims 6 (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) The isolated endothelial cell of claim ~~6~~ 5, wherein the retrovirus is a bicistronic retrovirus.

8. (Currently Amended) The isolated endothelial cell of claim 5, wherein the monocytic cell is a RAW cell or a THP-1 cell.

Claims 9-10 (Canceled).

11. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the monocytic cell transdifferentiates into an endothelial cell *in vitro*.

12. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the monocytic cell transdifferentiates into an endothelial cell *in vivo*.

13. (New) The isolated endothelial cell of claim 5, wherein the monocytic cell transdifferentiates into the endothelial cell *in vitro*.

14. (New) The isolated endothelial cell of claim 5, wherein the monocytic cell transdifferentiates into the endothelial cell *in vivo*.